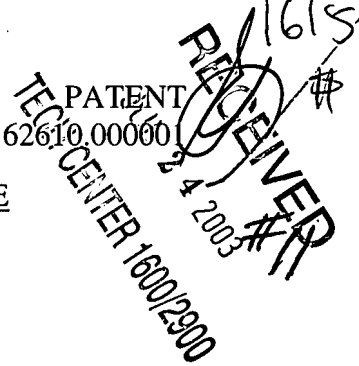




Attorney Docket No.: 62610.00000



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
R. KATSARAVA *et al.*) Group Art Unit: 1615
)
Application Number: 09/757,704) Examiner: Isis Ghali
)
Filed: January 11, 2001)
)
For: POLYMER BLENDS AS
BIODEGRADABLE MATRICES
FOR PREPARING
BIOCOMPOSITES

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 AND REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is submitted in response to the Office Action of January 27, 2003. Applicants respectfully request a three-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) for responding to the Office Action mailed on January 27, 2003, in the above-captioned patent application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the time for response be extended up to and including July 27, 2003. Enclosed is a check for the fee for Extension of Time in the amount of \$460.00 (small entity fee). However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any difference to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0206.

Please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action, claims 1-3,6,7 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Sautome *et al.*, Chemistry Letters, pp 21-24, (1991) (Office Action, pages 2-3). The Examiner asserted that Sautome *et al.* disclosed polymers that allegedly

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